

RESEARCH BRIEF

Education in Missouri

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The level of educational attainment among Missourians has been steadily rising since 1995. High school graduation rates have increased every year since 1996. The percentage of the Missouri population with a high school diploma has increased 3.8 percentage points from 82.8% in 1995 to 86.6% in 2000. Nationally, the percentage of the population with a high school diploma has increased at a slower pace, 2.3 percentage points from 81.7% in 1999 to 84.1% in 2000. In 2000, Missouri ranked 4th for the percentage of the population with a high school diploma compared to surrounding states.

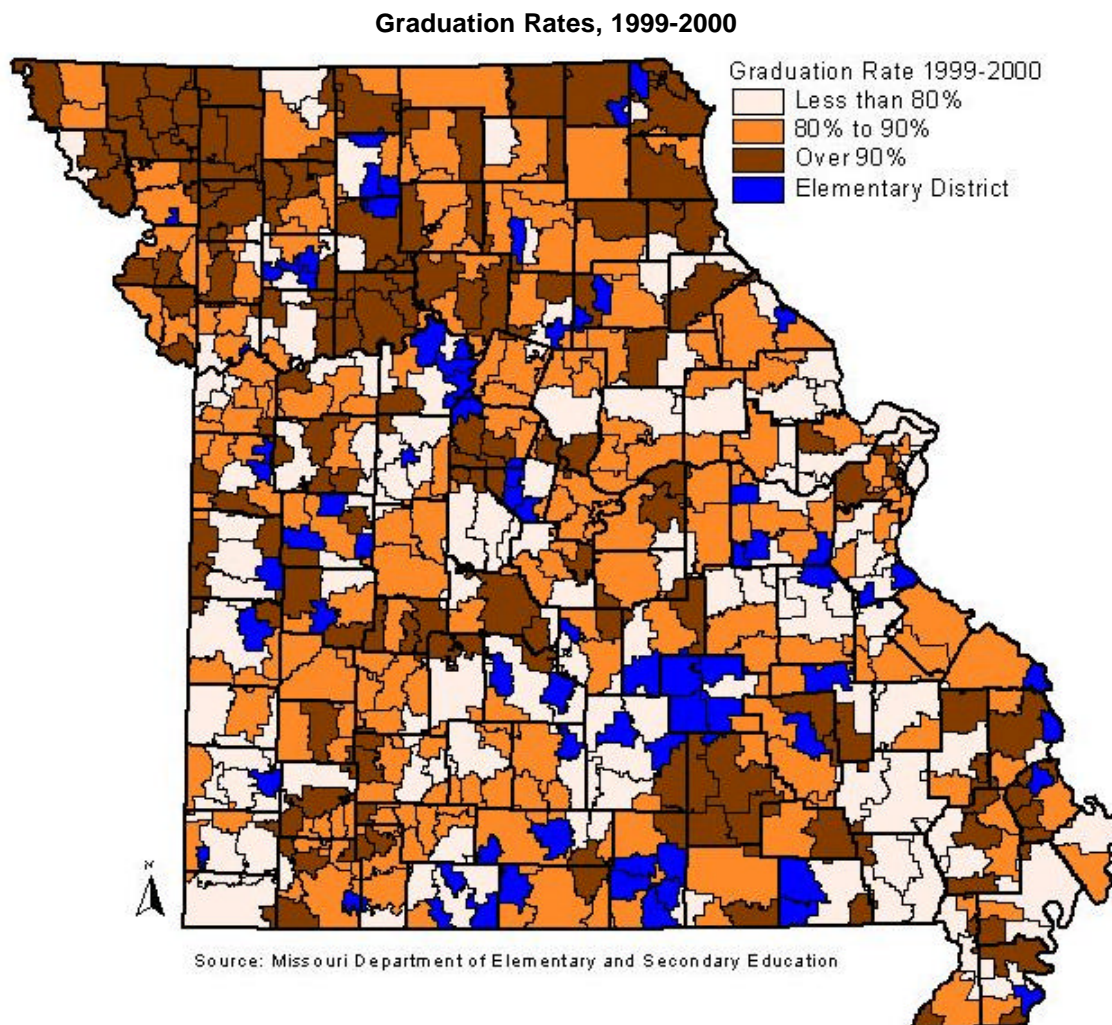
The number of citizens with higher education is increasing as well. The percentage of Missouri high school graduates entering college has increased 2.5 percentage points from 56.8% to 59.3%. The number of students entering technical schools has also increased. The percentage of Missouri's population holding a bachelor's degree or higher has risen 4.3 percentage points from 21.9% in 1999 to 26.2% in 2000, surpassing the national average. Nationally, the figure rose by only 2.6 percentage points from 23.0% in 1999 to 25.6% last year. In 2000, Missouri ranked 3rd for the percentage of the population holding a bachelor's degree or higher compared to surrounding states.

In general, Missouri's graduation rate has increased since 1995. The majority of Missouri's graduates enter colleges or universities after high school - with the percent increasing steadily since 1995. The presence of a well educated workforce - both secondary and higher education - is an important engine of the New Economy, and trends in Missouri are encouraging.

Missouri high school students are most proficient in the communication arts and moderately proficient in social studies. However, proficiency in science and mathematics is quite low. In fact, scores for math proficiency have decreased in past years; and science scores have only marginally increased over the years. These low scores are particularly troubling in that many of the fast-growth and high-wage jobs in the New Economy require math and science skills (i.e. aerospace, IT, life sciences).

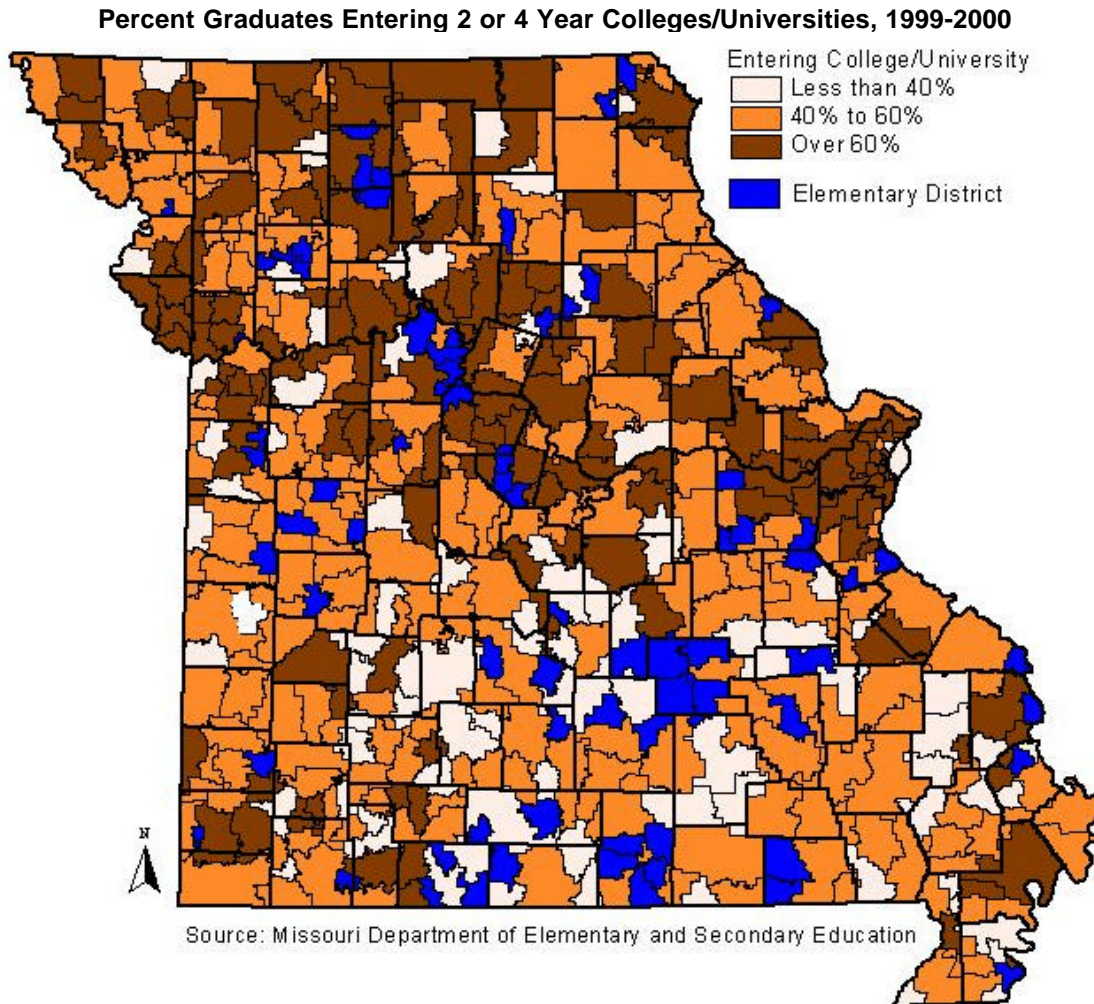
Graduation Rates

Missouri's high school graduation rate for the 1999-2000 school year was 79.3% - an increase from the 1994-1995 rate of 74.8%. Districts with the highest graduation rates are located in north Missouri - particularly the northwest. Districts with the lowest graduation rates are located in the Bootheel, Ozarks, southwest Missouri and in the core metropolitan areas of Kansas City and St. Louis.

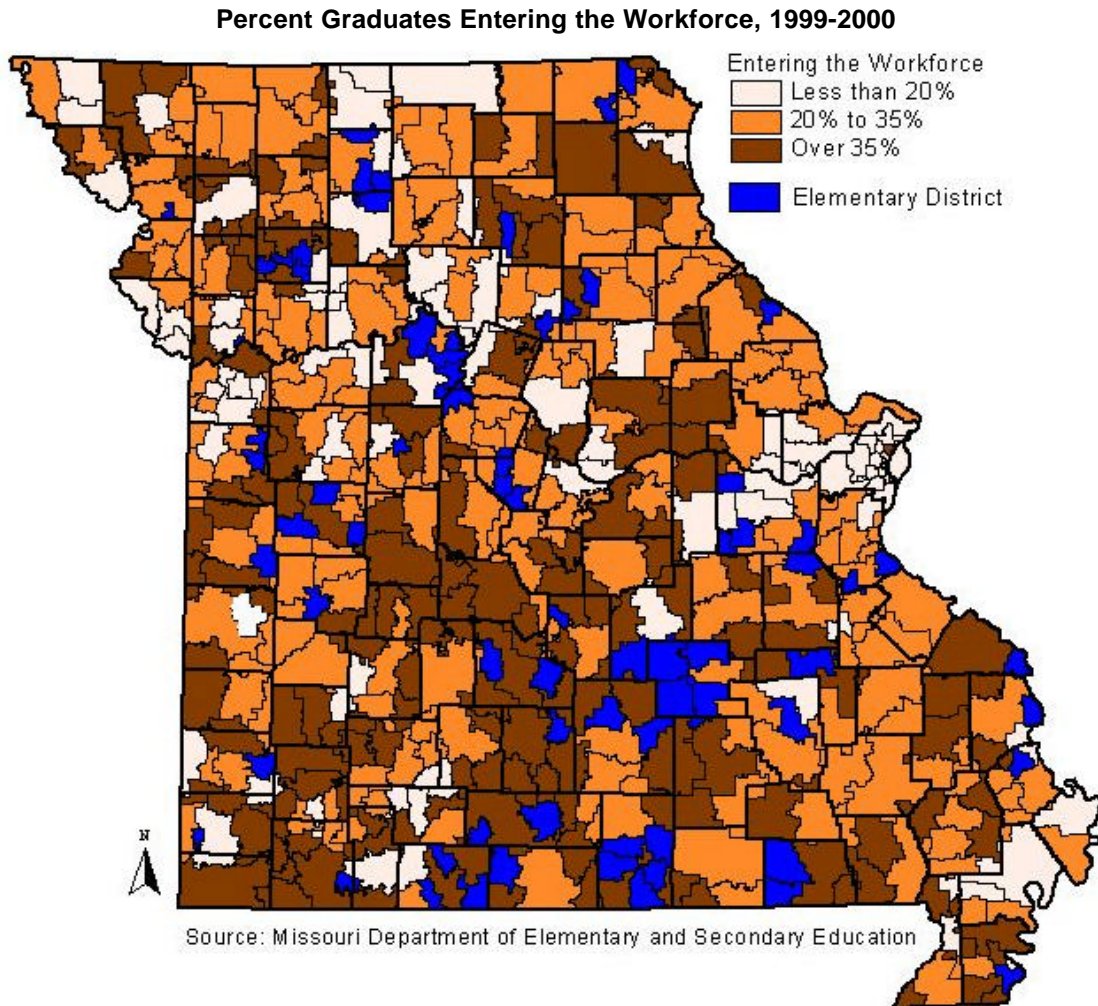


Post-Graduation Plans

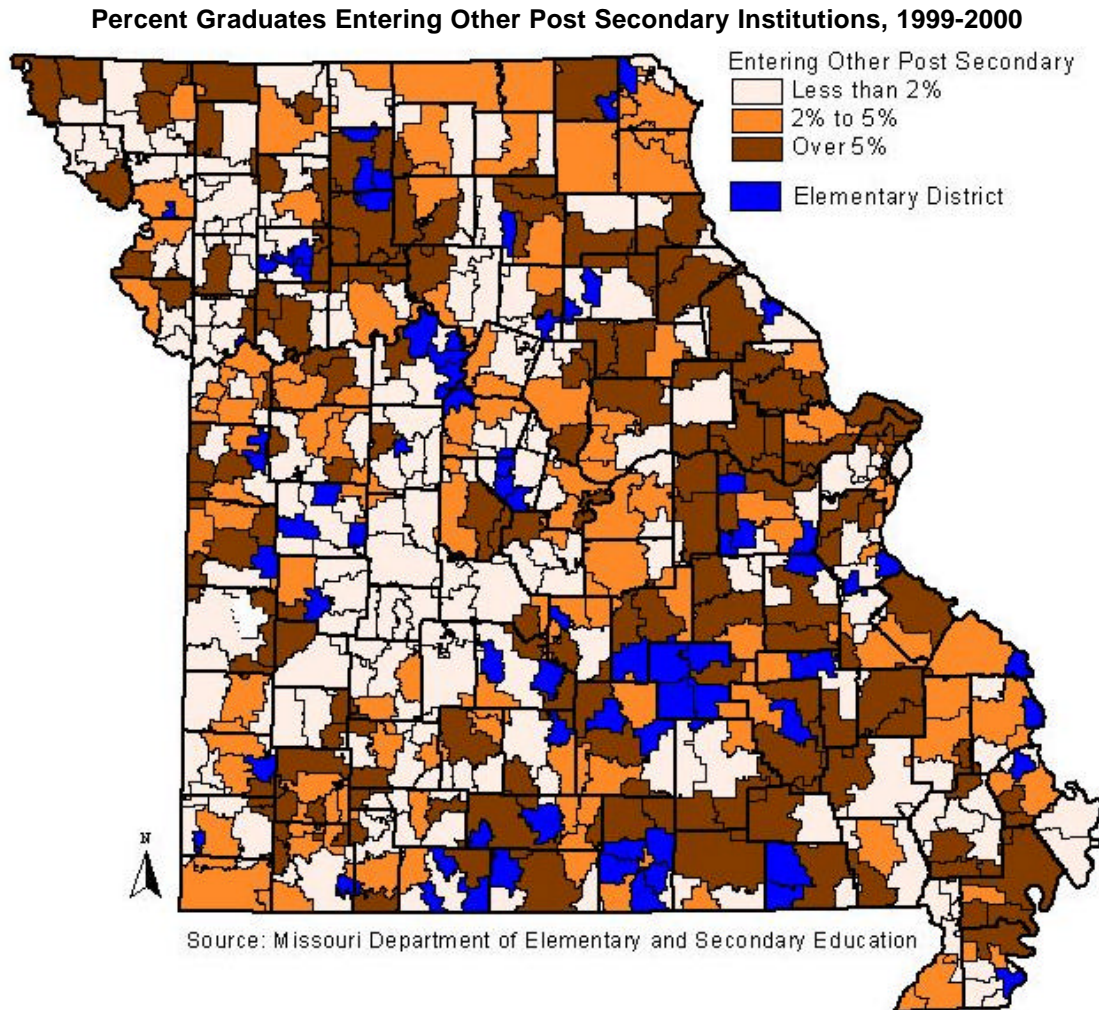
For the 1999-2000 school year, 59.3% of Missouri's high school graduates entered 2 or 4 year colleges/universities after graduation - an increase from the 1994-1995 rate of 57.4%. Districts with the largest percentage of graduates entering colleges/universities are located in the suburban areas of Kansas City and St. Louis, central Missouri, and north Missouri. Districts with the smallest percentage of graduates entering colleges/universities are located in south central Missouri.



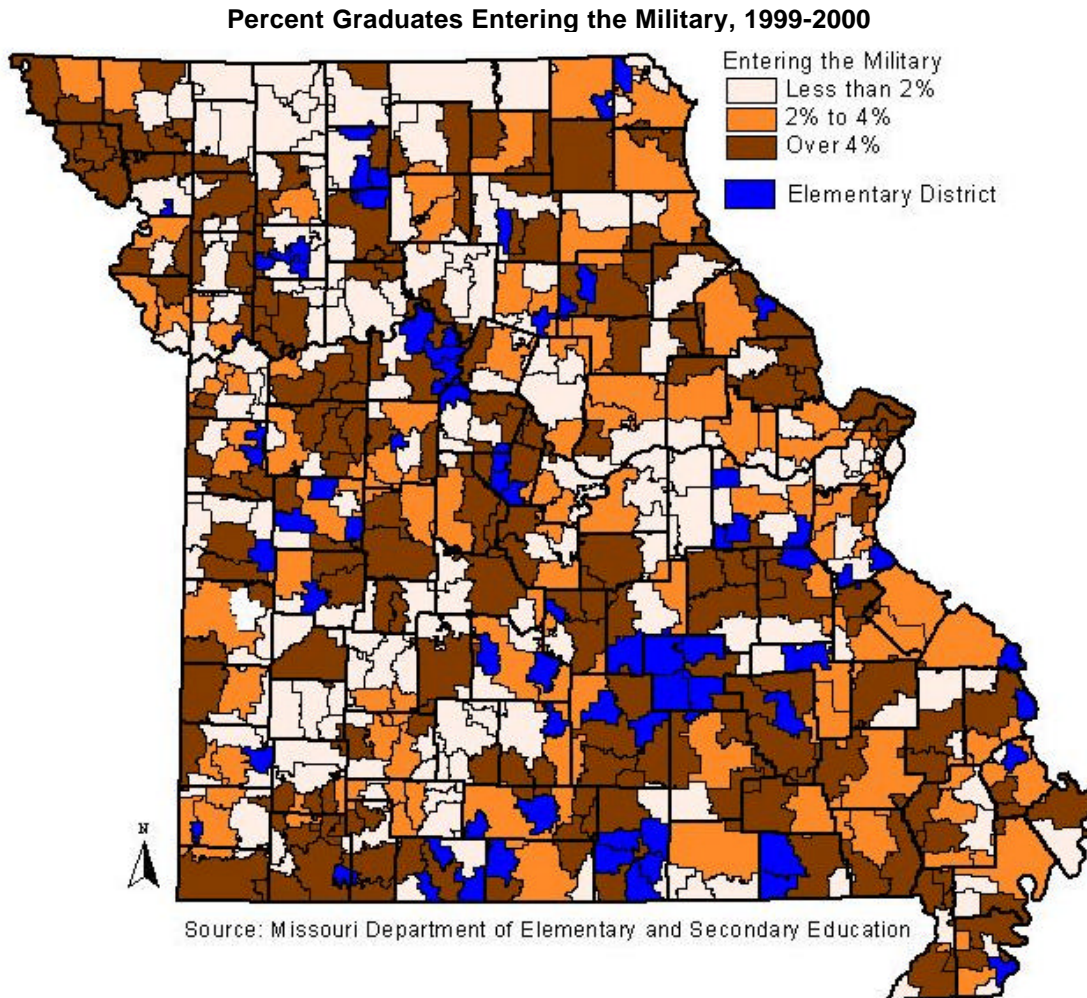
For the 1999-2000 school year, 23.2% of Missouri's high school graduates entered the workforce after graduation - a decrease from the 1994-1995 rate of 24.6%. Districts with the largest percentage of graduates entering the workforce are located in the Lake of the Ozarks region and in southern Missouri. Districts with the smallest percentage of graduates entering the workforce are located in the suburban areas of Kansas City and St. Louis, and in north Missouri.



For the 1999-2000 school year, 3.9% of Missouri's high school graduates entered other post-secondary institutions after graduation - an increase from the 1994-1995 rate of 3.4%. Other post-secondary institutions include trade and vocational schools not granting a 2-year or 4-year degree. Districts with the largest percentage of graduates entering other post-secondary institutions are located in the eastern and southern portions of Missouri. Districts with the smallest percentage of graduates entering other post-secondary institutions are located in west central and northwest Missouri.



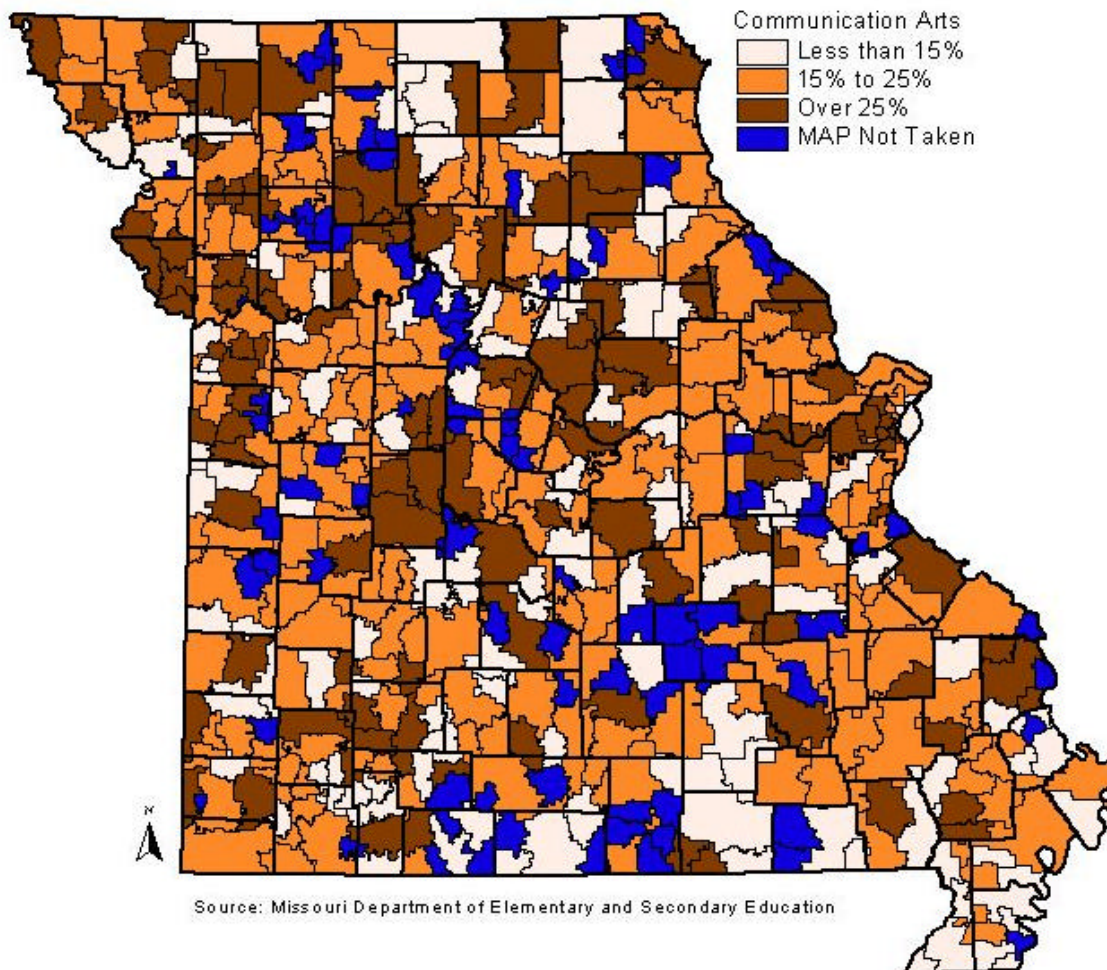
For the 1999-2000 school year, 3.1% of Missouri's high school graduates entered the military after graduation - a decrease from the 1994-1995 rate of 3.6%. The percent of graduates entering the military is diffused throughout the state. In general, districts in north central Missouri have the smallest percentage of graduates entering the military.



Student Achievement

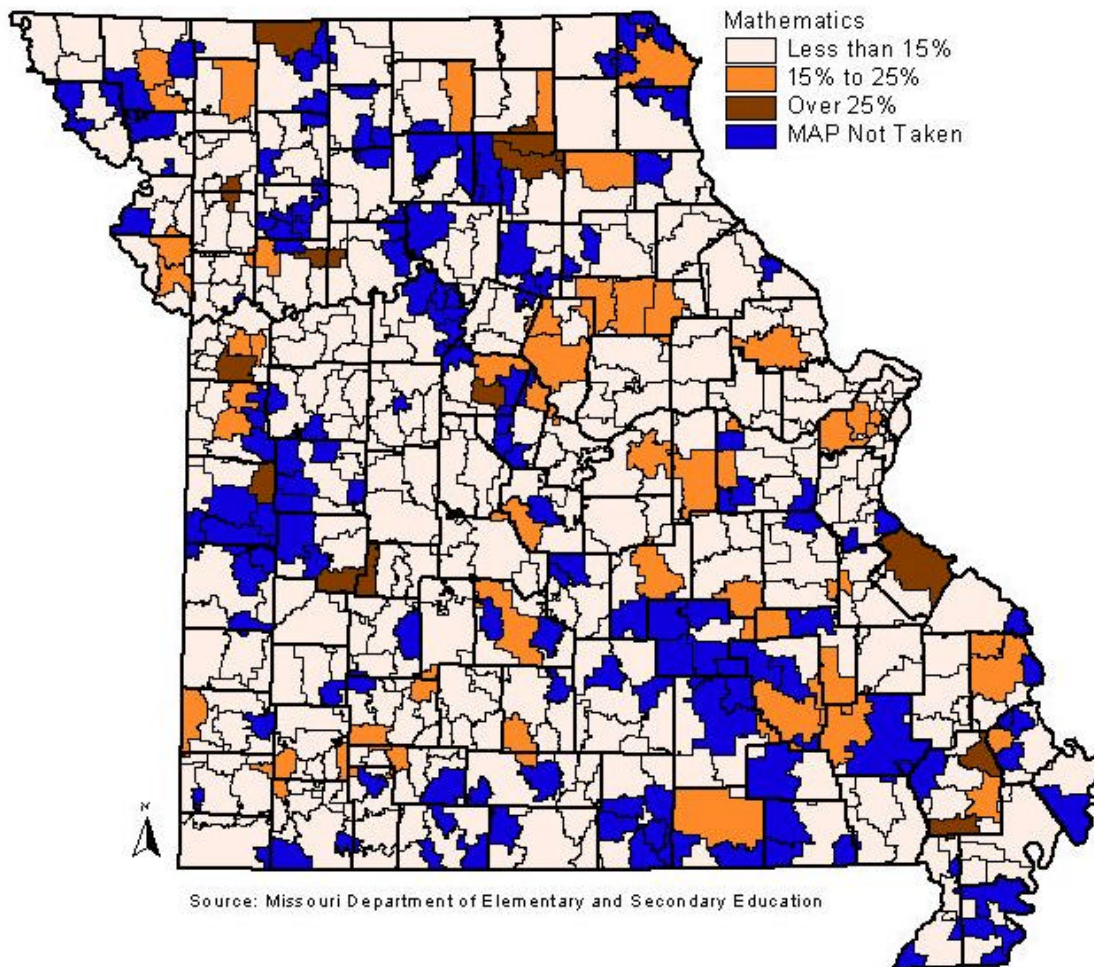
For the 1999-2000 school year, 22.78% of Missouri's 11th graders were proficient or advanced in communication arts - an increase from the 1996-1997 rate of 20.65%. Scores are taken from the Missouri Assessment Program. Districts with the highest proficiencies are located in the urban areas of Missouri. Districts with the lowest proficiencies are located in the Bootheel, and in southern and northern Missouri.

Communication MAP - Percent Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced, 1999-2000

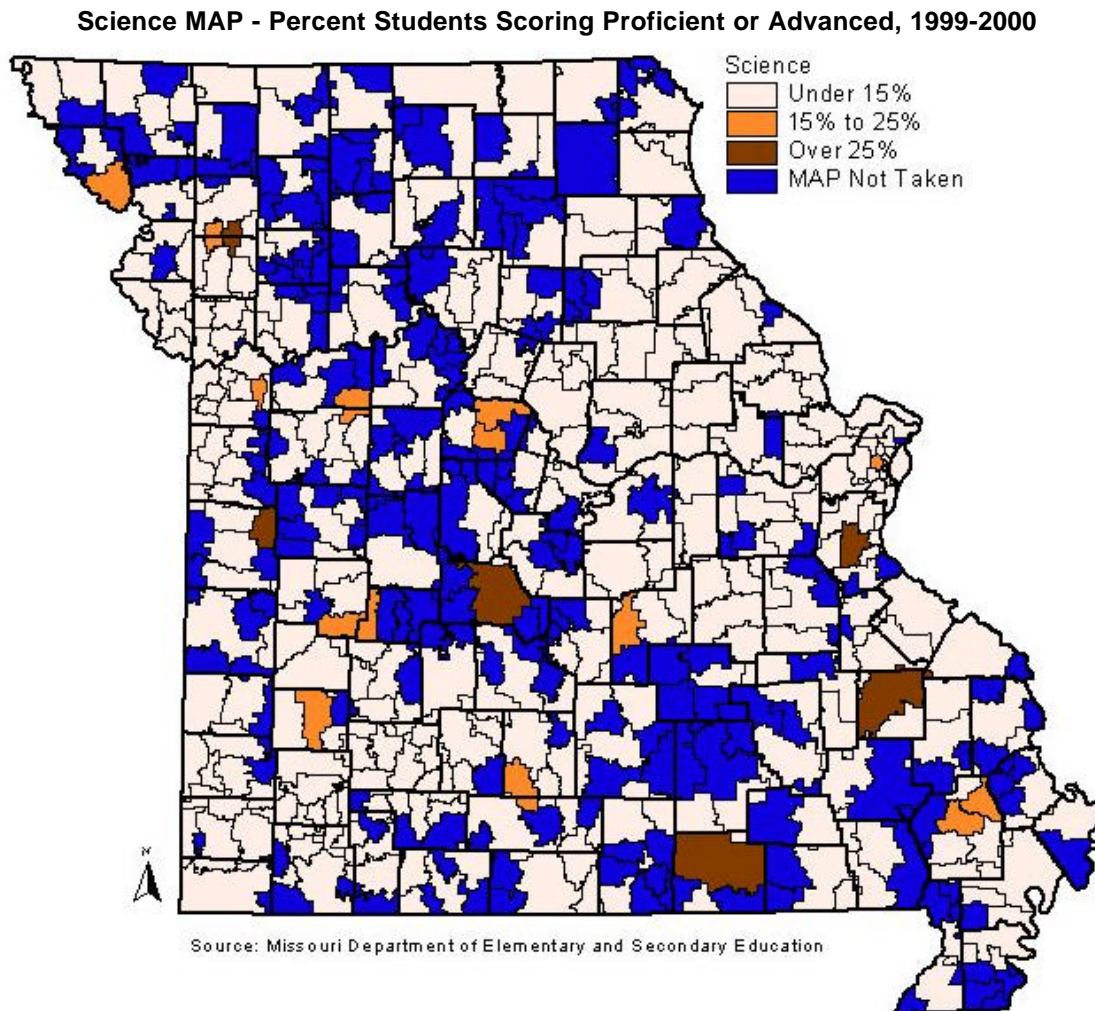


For the 1999-2000 school year, 10.35% of Missouri's 10th graders were proficient or advanced in mathematics - a decrease from the 1996-1997 rate of 11.41%. Scores are taken from the Missouri Assessment Program. Districts with the highest proficiencies are located in Ste. Genevieve and Macon County. The majority of the state's districts scored low on mathematics proficiency.

Mathematics MAP - Percent Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced, 1999-2000



For the 1999-2000 school year, 5.85% of Missouri's 10th graders were proficient or advanced in science - a small increase from the 1997-1998 rate of 5.67%. Scores are taken from the Missouri Assessment Program. Districts with the highest proficiencies are located in Miller and Oregon counties. The majority of the state's districts scored low on science proficiency.



For the 1999-2000 school year, 16.69% of Missouri's 11th graders were proficient or advanced in social studies - an increase from the 1998-1999 rate of 14.03%. Scores are taken from the Missouri Assessment Program. Districts with the highest proficiencies are located in the smaller metropolitan areas of the state. The majority of the state's districts scored moderately low on social studies proficiency.

Social Studies MAP - Percent Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced, 1999-2000

